

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01

SAM-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 ITC-01 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 H-02

PA-01 PRS-01 /083 W

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O R 261708Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 608

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1737

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER ON TOBACCO

REF: (A) STATE 044621, (B) EC BRUSSELS 01600, (C) EC BRUSSELS 1820

1. SUMMARY: THE MISSION PRESENTED THE US POSITION ON THE PROPOSED EC TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER ON TOBACCO. THE COMMISSION SAID THAT THE MATTER WAS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE MEMBER STATES. THEY COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE THAT TOBACCO WOULD BE ON THE MTN NEGOTIATING TABLE AND SAID THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OVERALL 50,000 TON QUOTA FOR GSP TOBACCO HAD ALREADY BEEN REJECTED AS INSUFFICIENT. END SUMMARY.

2. MISSION OFFICIALS CONVEYED THE SUBSTANCE OF REF. A TO PHAN VAN PHI AND TRAN VAN THINH (COMMISSION'S DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS). WITH RESPECT TO OUR REQUEST FOR POSITIVE ASSURANCE THAT THE EC WOULD PUT TOBACCO ON THE TABLE FOR MTN  
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NEGOTIATION, PHAN SAID THAT NEITHER HE NOR ANYONE ELSE IN THE

COMMISSION COULD GIVE SUCH AN ASSURANCE. HE NOTED THAT THE ITALIANS HAD ASKED FOR THE EXACT OPPOSITE--THAT IS, AN ASSURANCE THAT TOBACCO WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT FO FURTHER MTN CONCESSIONS. THE ITALIAN REQUEST REPORTEDLY WAS REFUSED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE POSSIBILITY OF EITHER ELIMINATING THE PROPOSED GSP CONCESSION FOR 24.01 A OR PUTTING ALL GSP TOBACCO UNDER THE SAME 50,000 TON QUOTA, TRAN INDICATED THAT THE LATTER POSSIBILITY HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED AND HAD BEEN REJECTED AS BEING CLEARLY INSUFFICIENT. TRAN SAID THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY ASKED THE US TO MAKE SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR THE MODIFICATION OF THE EC OFFER (REF. B) BUT HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY. IN THE ABSENCE OF US ADVICE, HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT US INTERESTS LIE PRIMARILY IN 24.01 B AND HAD SUGGESTED CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE EC PROPOSAL WHICH HE CLAIMED MADE IT MORE FAVORABLE TO THE US. (COMMENT: THESE SUGGESTED CHANGES WERE DESCRIBED IN REF. C. IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THAT THEY WOULD APPRECIABLY MODIFY THE IMPACT OF THE GSP CONCESSIONS ON US TRADE. END COMMENT.)

4. THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT THE MATTER WAS NOW OUT OF THEIR HANDS BECAUSE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS WERE VIRTUALLY TERMINATED AND NOW POLITICAL LEVELS WOULD TAKE UP THE ISSUE. THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOW TAKE UP THE PROPOSAL. COMMISSION OFFICIALS BELIEVE THE COUNCIL IS COMMITTED TO TAKE A FINAL DECISION ON MARCH 1-2. THEY SAID THAT THE SITUATION WAS STILL FLUID AND THAT THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE COMMUNITY OFFER COULD NOT BE PREDICTED. HOWEVER, AT THIS LATE STAGE, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMISSION TO AFFECT THE FINAL DECISION. THEY INDICATED THAT THE MEMBER STATES WERE AWARE OF US INTEREST RE THE EC GSP OFFER AND THAT THE POINTS WE HAD MADE WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THEM.

5. MISSION OFFICERS ALSO INFORMED THE ITALIAN PERM DEL OF THE SUBSTANCE OF REF. A. ITALIAN OFFICIALS REAFFIRMED THE GOI'S OBJECTION TO THE GSP TOBACCO CONCESSION. THEY WERE PLEASED THAT WE HAD AGAIN INFORMED THE COMMISSION OF OUR DESIRE FOR THE EC TO ELIMINATE THIS CONCESSION. THEY HOPED THAT OUR PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE EC TOBACCO CONCESSION WOULD NOT LESSEN OUR EFFORTS TO SEEK ITS ELIMINATION. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 26 FEB 1976  
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